

## MEMO

**Submitted by:** Judy Kelly, Director  
San Francisco Estuary Partnership

**Subject:** Executive Board Ratification of a Contract with CEMAR  
(Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration) for A  
State of the Bay Estuary Report

**Date:** May 4, 2010

### **Executive Summary**

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) seeks ratification of a contract with **CEMAR** for preparation of an updated State of the Bay Estuary Report. The San Francisco Estuary Partnership seeks to produce a State of the Bay report that will assess the current ecological condition of the San Francisco Bay Estuary. The report will be scientifically credible, using high-quality available data and transparent, sophisticated methods. The findings will be synthesized and presented in a manner that is easily understood by the public and accessible to the mainstream media (such as a “report card”). The completed project will serve also as a model for the Partnership to use on an ongoing, periodic basis to report on the ecological condition of the estuary. As restoration of the estuary is a key part of Partnership’s mission, a periodic State of the Bay report will allow SFEP to evaluate its progress.

Citizens of the region want to know “if the Bay is healthy,” especially because they understand their activities may be creating adverse effects. This project will provide an assessment of the ecological condition of the Bay that can be used to inform the public of the status of this valued natural resource. It will provide essential information to practitioners by providing an integrated measure of the success of the many efforts by government, private entities, and citizens to protect and enhance the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the Bay. The value of this integrated assessment is that it provides an overall benchmark of ecological condition of the Bay. SFEP’s purpose is to provide a single, integrated assessment to report on the status and trends of ecological condition.

CEMAR will work with an indicators work group that has been working together for some time including the San Francisco Estuary Institute, The Bay Institute, and PRBO Conservation Science.

### **Recommended Action**

We request Executive Board ratification of this contract agreement. The contract amount for the first phase of work is \$ 109,000 and the term is from March 15, 2010 through September 30, 2010. Funds for this portion of the contract are available in the ABAG grant agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) to support SFEP for FY10-11 and SFEP’s State of the Estuary account.

Item 6.G.